

David L. Sherman, PE, District Liaison Engineer
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Engineering District 9-0
1620 North Juniata Street
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
Telephone: (814) 696-7170
Fax: (814) 696-7173

Russell Walto, Project Manager
Project Planning Division
Maryland Department of Transportation
State Highway Administration
707 North Calvert Street, MS C-301
Baltimore, MD 21202
Telephone: 1-800-548-5026 or (410) 545-8547
Fax: (410) 209-5004
E-mail: rwalto@sha.state.md.us

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Please complete and return the information below to add your name or the name of a friend or family member to the project mailing list for newsletters and other informational updates.

Name _____ Phone (Optional) _____

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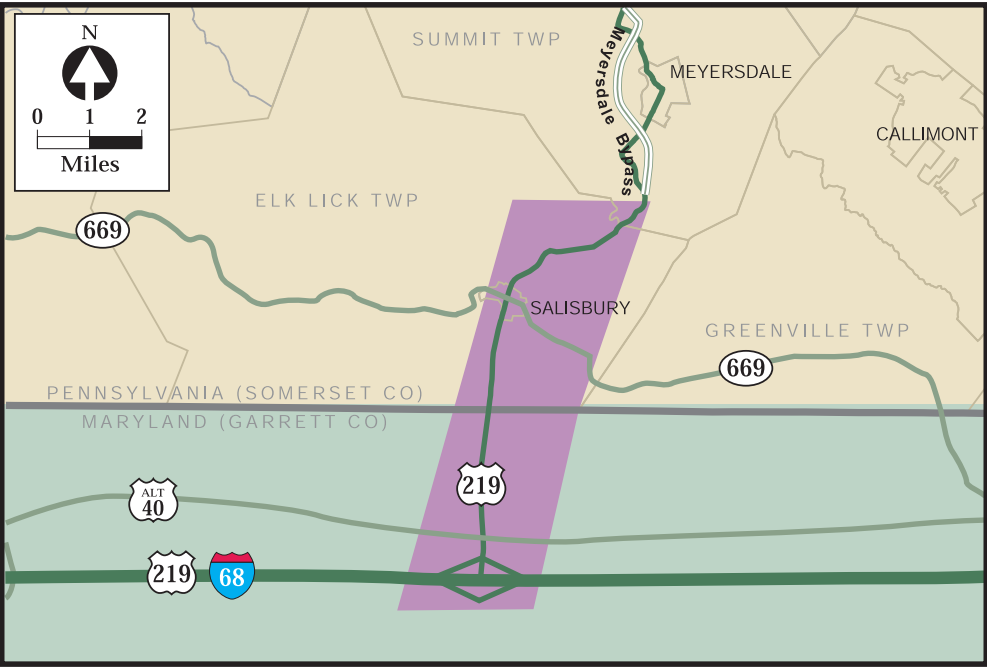
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US 219 Project
c/o McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc.
3133 New Germany Road, Suite 64
Ebensburg, PA 15931

US 219 Study Under Way In Pennsylvania, Maryland

Engineering and environmental studies are underway on the portion of US 219 from Meyersdale, Somerset County, Pennsylvania to Interstate 68 in Garrett County, Maryland. In partnership, PENNDOT’s Engineering District 9, Maryland State Highway Administration (MDSHA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are leading this effort.

A major north-south route through western Pennsylvania, US 219 links I-68 and Route 40 in Maryland to the Pennsylvania Turnpike and I-80, providing important access to small cities, towns and rural communities along the corridor.

The purpose of the project is to identify US 219 improvements that will enhance safety and



Although some sections are flat and straight, the roadway conditions along US 219 vary as much as the communities it serves.

support economic development of the region. McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Inc. (MTA) is leading a team of engineering and environmental consultants, that has been retained to prepare an environmental document for the project.

The project team will study the project area in detail and develop several preliminary corridors, in which alignment alternatives will eventually be developed. Through environmental and engineering studies and public involvement activities, the team will narrow the range of alternatives until a preferred alternative is identified. These efforts will also be coordinated with Federal and State resource agencies to ensure that the project strikes the best balance among environmental, engineering and community concerns. The preliminary engineering is expected to be completed by Spring 2005.



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Public Meeting Updates Community

Nearly 300 people participated in an introductory Open House Public Meeting for the US 219, Meyersdale to I-68 project in Pennsylvania and Maryland. The meeting was held on Monday evening, June 17th at the Salisbury Municipal Building in Salisbury, Pennsylvania.

The purpose of the meeting was to: introduce the project and study team to the community; explain the project location and limits; present information about the identified project purpose and needs; inform and gain input from the public, including the identification of local interests and concerns.

Eight informational display stations depicted various aspects of the project, including cultural resources, environmental features, engineering data and the study process. Citizens were able to speak one-on-one with the project team members who were present at each station, to receive information, ask questions and provide input.

At the conclusion of the meeting, all attendees were asked to complete comment forms regarding the project. Currently, the team is reviewing those comments for incorporation into future project development activities.(Please see summary article of comments in the next column.)



Public Comments Aired

The June 17th Public Meeting was an opportunity for the project team to get to know the residents in the area. Using a comment form, the team surveyed the 300 attendees and asked questions regarding usage, interests and concerns about US 219 and the transportation study. The following is a summary of the comment form responses.

Approximately 200 people completed comment forms. These respondents indicated US 219 usage: daily (103); weekly (53); and a few times each month (35). Reasons cited for using US 219 included business, errands, recreation and residential access.

Regarding environmental features, 36% of respondents were most concerned about agricultural lands and 17% were concerned about historic structures and cultural resources. Others expressed interest in fishable streams, forested areas, wetlands, noise and parks.

When asked about specific interests or concerns they may have regarding the project, they responded with a wide variety of topics. A majority of comments reflected concerns regarding potential right-of-way acquisition or impacts to homes, property and agricultural land.

Of significant interest is safety related to the current location of US 219 in Salisbury, Pennsylvania. Respondents also indicated potential noise and pollution that may result from a new roadway.

Other interests included the preservation of natural resources, such as wetlands, fishable waters (Casselman River, Piney Run Creek), water supplies, drinking water and natural springs. Additionally, several respondents were interested in preserving the integrity of the rural area and wildlife. The Project Team will work hard to address local interests as the project progresses.

Anticipated Schedule

Public Meeting No. 1	June 2002
Mapping Features/Data Collection	Spring/Summer 2002
Traffic Forecast Update	Summer 2002
Website and Newsletter	Summer 2002
Preliminary Corridors/Alternatives	Fall 2002
Public Meeting No. 2	Winter 2002/2003
Detailed Studies	Spring 2003
Public Meeting No. 3	Fall 2003
Draft *EIS Hearing	Summer 2004
Final *EIS	Winter 2004/ Spring 2005
* <i>Environmental Impact Statement</i>	

Next Up: Preliminary Alternatives Analysis

The next step in this transportation process is to develop and evaluate preliminary alternatives. These alternatives will range from No-Build Alternative, upgrade along existing US 219, alternatives on new alignment and combinations of new and existing alignments. The project team will utilize background environmental data that is being collected for such features as wetlands, streams, farmlands, historic resources and mines. These corridors will consist of approximately 1000 foot band widths within which the project team will be able to assess impacts to the environmental resources. That information will help to determine the affects of the alternatives for comparison purposes. Ultimately, the team will use the information to narrow down the number of corridors based on this assessment. The remaining corridors will be carried forward for detailed study.

The project team will present the preliminary corridors to the public at the next public meeting anticipated in Winter 2002. Public input will be sought to assist in the further refinement and review of the alternatives to meet the project needs and minimize environmental impacts.

Do you know of any features in the project area that we should be aware of such as:

- Historic Structures
- Underground storage tanks
- Mines
- Unmarked/hidden cemeteries
- Any other resources you feel should be protected

Please let us know about these important resources by calling:

Deborah Holland
US 219 Project Coordinator
(717) 540-6040 or by e-mail:
dholland@mccormicktaylor.com

Join us at the Somerset County Fair!

August 18 - 24, 2002

Learn more about the US 219 Meyersdale to I-68 project at the New Exhibition Hall.

Talk to the project team!

Prizes and Giveaways!

Sign up for our mailing list!

For more information, visit our website at

www.us219.com